

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A starch molding composition comprising optionally modified starch combined with redispersible powder of at least one polymer stabilized with protective colloid(s) and/or emulsifier(s), said polymer comprising one or more comonomer units selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain and branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, acrylates and methacrylates of branched and straight-chain alcohols having 1 to 15 carbon atoms, dienes, vinyl aromatics and vinyl halides, and further comprising from 0.1 to 20.0% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer, of at least one functional comonomer selected from the group consisting of carboxyl-, hydroxyl-, epoxy- and NH-functional ethylenically unsaturated comonomers, hydroxyalkyl methacrylates wherein the alkyl moiety of the hydroxyalkyl group is a C₁- to C₈-alkyl radical, and optionally, olefin comonomer(s), wherein the redispersible powder of the at least one polymer is ~~provided in of~~ an amount of from 5 to 60% by weight based on the total weight of the starch.

21. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 20 wherein the one or more comonomer units are selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched carboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

22. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the at least one functional comonomer includes N-alkylol-functional comonomer units having a C₁- to C₄-alkylol radical.

23. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the at least one functional comonomer is selected from the group consisting of N-methylolacrylamide (NMA), N-methylolmethacrylamide, N-methylolallylcarbamate, C₁- to C₄-

alkyl ethers of N-methylolacrylamide, N-methylolmethacrylamide and N-methylolallylcarbamate, and C₁- to C₄-alkyl esters of N-methylolacrylamide, N-methylolmethacrylamide and N-methylolallylcarbamate.

24. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the polymer is vinyl acetate polymer, vinyl acetate/ethylene copolymer, vinyl acetate/ethylene/vinyl chloride copolymer or vinyl ester/acrylate copolymer, each further containing said functional comonomer.

25. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30°C to +120°C.

26. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the protective colloid(s) are provided in an amount of from 1 to 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer.

27. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the protective colloid(s) are selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl acetals, polyvinylpyrrolidones, celluloses, cellulose derivatives, poly(meth)acrylic acid, copolymers of(meth)acrylates with carboxy-functional comonomer units, poly(meth)acrylamide, polyvinylsulfonic acids and copolymers thereof, melamineformaldehydesulfonates, naphthaleneformaldehydesulfonates, styrene/maleic acid copolymers ~~and~~ vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, starch, and dextrans.

28. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 27, wherein the protective colloids are polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 85 to 94 mol% and a Höppler viscosity, in 4% strength aqueous solution, of from 3 to 15 mPa·s at 20°C according to DIN 53015.

29. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 20, wherein the optionally modified starch is in natural form, as destructured starch, as chemically modified starch, or a mixture thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The starch molding composition of claim 20 is an adhesive.

31. (Currently amended) A starch molding composition of claim 20, prepared by a molding process of extrusion, extrusion blow molding, foam extrusion, injection molding, calendering or thermoforming.

32. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 31 further comprising biodegradable polyester as a binder.

33. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 31 further comprising cellulose fractions in the form of wood particles, wood fibers and woodmeal.

34. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 31 provided as a rottable molding.

35. (Currently amended) The starch molding composition of claim 31 provided as a rottable film.

36. (Currently amended) A process for producing a starch molding from the starch molding composition of claim 20, comprising:

providing starch, mixing said at least one polymer with said starch, and molding at a temperature of from 70°C to 150°C.

37. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein water is present prior to molding.

38. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein a wood product selected from the group consisting of wood particles, wood fibers, wood meal, and mixtures thereof are present prior to molding.

39. (Previously presented) A starch molded article comprising optionally modified starch combined with redispersible powder of at least one polymer stabilized with protective colloid(s) and/or emulsifier(s), said polymer comprising one or more comonomer units selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain and branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, acrylates and methacrylates of branched and straight-chain alcohols having 1 to 15 carbon atoms, dienes, vinyl aromatics and vinyl halides, and further comprising from 0.1 to 20.0% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer, of at least one functional N-methylol comonomer, wherein the redispersible powder of the at least one polymer is provided in an amount of from 5 to 60% by weight based on the total weight of the starch.